

### History of Heber City, Utah.

President Brigham Young told the people to branch out from Salt Lake Valley and take up all available land that could be cultivated. He asked that not more than 50 men go in one group, with capable men as leaders to fight the Indians.

In April of 1859 a small company of ten men, three wagons drawn by oxen left Provo for the valley up the river, which was later called Provo Valley. They were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, C. N. Carrol, John Carlile, William Giles, John Jordan, Henry Chatin<sup>Wm</sup>, Jessie Bond, James Carlile and a man by the name of Carpenter.

It took them three days to reach the open valley, where much to their surprise they found two men ploughing, they were; <sup>William Davidson</sup> James Dans and Robert Broadhead. They had been ploughing a day or two, also <sup>Joseph</sup> Williams Cummings and R. Parker had been ploughing at Center Creek.

This Provo company went on up through the valley to a spring in the northern end of the valley. Here they made camp because of the large spring, and the choice land around it that was covered with waving grass.

Lower down in the valley the land was covered with large sage brush which was difficult to clear off, so they made preparations to stay longer where they were.

This camp was made up of mostly English people, so it was called London. The land they cultivated was then called the "big field", now the North field. It was surveyed into twenty acre plots. They had faith that they would reap a harvest although the report was that there were heavy frosts every month of the year.

After their crops were in a townsite was surveyed two miles south of London, in approximately the center of the valley. They then began to build their log cabins in the shape of a fort as a protection from the Indians. It was in the north west corner of townsite, two blocks long and two blocks wide. It started from John E. Moulton's

h me west to Walters Young, North to Alex Sessions (Now T. P. Lindsay's)  
and East to Jessie Witt's. The houses were built close together with o  
openings here and there so cattle could be taken out but were kept  
most of the time inside of fort.

These houses were very practical. They were built of cotton wood logs cut green from the river bottom. They were all kept busy preparing for the long cold winter ahead.

Their wheat was frosted a little but could be used for flour. It had to be taken to Provo to be ground into flour. It took 3 or 4 days for the trip. Much of the wheat was ground in small coffee mills at home, while some was boiled and eaten as mush with milk. Most of the families had a cow or two. The only hay they had was the wild hay that had been cut with a scythe. This only grew in the swampy places and was very difficult to cut. Many of the men took their families and went back to Provo to spend the winter where hay was more plentiful.

Ploughing was done in Snake Creek in 1859 and some crops raised. The women as well as the men harvested the crops. All the wheat was cut with a scythe. The women usually made it into bundles, and tied it with grass.

It was a long and dreary winter, with early snow and very deep. There was no communication from the outside for four months. Churches was held regular; also dances.

In March of 1860 there was no sign of winter breaking. They held a prayer meeting at the home of Thomas Rasband, and prayed earnestly that the Lord would come to their aid; to cause the snow to melt and grass grow for their starving cattle and sheep. The people all testify that before the meeting closed the snow had started to melt and was dripping from the eaves. It wasn't long before the snow was all gone. They all thanked the Lord for His blessing.

In the spring of 1860 a large number of people came to make their home here. William M. Wall was appointed as presiding Elder



with John M. Murdock, and James Laird as counselors. There were about two hundred people in Heber at that time. They had all heard of the crops, lots of wood and plenty of water to irrigate their crops.

Near July 14 the twenty fourth a meeting was held to decide on a celebration. It was suggested that they build a bowery. John M. Murdock suggested that a meeting house be built that would serve all purposes. It was heartily endorsed and started. It was built 20 ft. by 40 ft. of logs. A large chimney in each end for a fire place, logs were burned for fuel and they were cut from three to four feet long. This church served the purpose for five years. The Deacon's job was to keep the church house in wood for meetings and parties. It kept them busy chopping logs and hauling it.

They decided to call this valley Heber, in honor of Heber C. Kimball, He was the first counselor to Pres. B. Young. The first meeting was held under his direction.

Much wheat was planted in the North field, but was shrunken by early frosts.

The first threshing machine was owned by Smith and Bullock. It threshed slowly, using oxen power but it had to go through a fanning mill after to separate the grain from the chaff. This was turned by hand. It was such a slow process that all the grain did not get threshed before winter. A fence was built to keep the oxen out of the grain. Each man was to build a rod of fence for each acre owned. In this way a good fence was built around all the fields. People who could not take their wheat to Provo to be made into flour had to still use the coffee mills.

In 1861 President Brigham Young sent Joseph S. Murdock to preside as first bishop. That year more people came to settle here. People now felt more free to build their homes outside of the fort. The first homes were built in the Northern end of town, and as the town grew the Southern end was built up.

In the year of 1861 Ephriam Smith and William Reynolds erected

a chopper run by horse power to chop up the wheat. This was an improvement on the coffee mills.

The first bridge built over Provo River was made in 1861, six miles north of Heber on the way to Salt Lake. That year a road was built through Provo Canyon.

J. M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd and took care of them. In summer he herded on hills near Heber and in the winter he took them south where there was good feed. This meant very much to the sheep man for there was very good hay in the winter, and they needed the wool to spin into yarn and weave into clothing, by a spinning wheel, and loom run by hand.

This was done by the women. Some of the wool was mixed with cotton and when woven was called Jeans. Most every one wore jeans as it was easier to make than all wool. They colored their cloth with tag alder, rabbit bush, and indigo. Large plaids were very popular, being easy to fix. The whole family would enjoy clothing made out of the same piece of plaid material. William Aird was the first weaver in Heber.

Shoes were very difficult to get so many used buckskin moccasins, also used same for pants. In 1873 a tannery was started and shoes were made here.

The early log houses had dirt roofs and dirt floors. A very few pots and pans and bake skillets were found as the house hold utensils.

Home-made furniture was all that could be obtained. Stools were made by splitting a wide stick of wood making it smooth with an ax, then boring holes to put legs in. Tables and beds were made in the same way.

Later William Bell a very efficient carpenter came and taught the people how to make nice furniture.

Besides the individual work at home, roads, canals, bridges, and ito. had to be made, so every one was kept real busy.

The winter of 1861-62 was an extremely long one. The snow was

so deep that men went to Salt Lake to April Conference on snow shoes, over four feet of snow. The spring ploughing could not be done until May 4 th.

Wasatch was made a county January 1862. Theatres and dances were the only means of enjoyment besides rag bee's and corn husking parties. John Crook, James Duke and C. N. Carroll were prominent members of the theatrical Co.

President Brigham Young called some men from Heber on missions, which was to take a wagon, oxen etc. and go for emigrants. This usually took four months. People dept comign here to make there homes, making a representation from several nations. They branched out into Center Creek and Midway,

In the year 63 people could get lumber so floors could be put in their houses. Dave Stevensen made shingles by hand. People were glad to replace them in the place of dirt roofs.

In 1866 the Black Hawk War broke out. The people from snake Creek and Charleston moved to-gether for protection from the Indians. It was then called Midway. The people in Heber were all advised to move closer to the old fort for protection, which they did.

President Brigham Young sent 24 men under captain W. M. Wall with 3 wagons of supplies and 100 head of beef out to the Uintah Reservation Indians as a peace offering. They had been stealing the stock and causing much misery. Seventy white people were killed during this war in Utah. Many of our men fought and helped subdue the Indians.

When Johnston's Army left Utah they sold their heavy army wagons, mules and utensils very cheap, and for years nearly every one here had a government wagon.

In 1864 lots of men used horse and mule teams, the women all made soft soap to wash with. Their lye was made by chopping a <sup>hole</sup> in a log, pouring wood ashes and water in; a crack was made by which this moisture seeped through and was lye. Grease added to the lye

and cooked made soft or hard soap as desired.

Most every one had candle moulds and made their own candles. They were made of mutton tallow with wicking drawn through the center. For good lights a board came from the ceiling with cross board at the end with a place fixed for four to six candles.

About this time people began to send back to the states for stoves. They brought coal from Coalville, a distance of 40 miles. The roads were very poor. The people were glad to do away with the crude fireplaces.

A few freight wagons, and a very few carriages were used in Utah at this time.

In 1863 and 64 John Witt and James Hamilton built red sand stones houses. The stone was quarried from the hills east of Heber.

In the fall of 1864 two stone school houses were built. The lower ward was built across the road south of Jessie Witts home the upper where the first ward church now stands. They were used both as church and school houses. The upper or east ward was finished first. President Young was invited out to the dedication. He came and dedicated the building. The crowd was so large that they had to build a bowery on the east side of the building. They had a wonderful meeting and had an extremely large crowd to the dedicational services.

Men were now hauling tan bark fire wood and stone flags to Salt Lake to sell. Many S. L. homes were built of stone from here. They traded wood, soap, eggs, stone, cheese, and butter for groceries and furniture and cloth and etc.

In 1865 Moses Cluff had a carding machine built, which was indeed a great improvement to that of doing by hand. It put the wool on a ~~card~~ ready to use by the spinning wheel.

In 1867 President Young called for men to haul granite rock from Little Cotton Wood Canyon for The Temple. Four men drove wagons and oxen from Heber. They were: Joseph Moulton, Orson Hicken, William

Lindsay, Harmon Cummings and Richard Jones Sr. was in charge of the Company. It took them two days to haul rock from the quarry to the Temple grounds.

There had been several ~~grist~~ Mills fixed up for use but were up Snake Creek and Center Creek. The Heber City ~~grist~~ mill was built in 1865. Robert T. Burton and Brigham Young Jr. were builders. Charles H. Wilken was the first millers.

In December 1865 President B. Young ordained Abram Hatch as bishop and sent him to preside over the ward. The weather was extremely cold so William Averett, Orson Hicken, and Robert Lindsay were sent to help him into the valley.

That year Hatch lived in a stone house called the McAfee castle. He chose Thomas H. Giles, and Henry S. Alexander for his counselors.

In the spring he built his large stone house on Main Street where the Boneville Lumber Co. now is. He used 1 room for a store. Before this, Miller and Carter, J. W. Witt, Jacob Harris, Alonzo Hyde, and Mark Jeffs had kept a small stock of goods but all except Jeffs had gone out of business. Jeffs and Hatch were competitors until the death of Hatch. Shortly after he came here he was made President of Stake with the same counselors.

In 1866 the last call was made for men to go to North Platte and Laramie City for emigrants, as the Union Pacific Rail Road was being built into Utah. Orson Hicken, William Lindsay, W. Garrol, and B. A. Norris were sent from Heber, three men from Midway, and 1 man from Charlestown, went and it took them four months to make the trip.

In 1866 the grasshoppers ate nearly all the crops. Very little of any kind of crop was raised. The U. P. R. R. coming to Ogden from the east, and the Central Pacific from the west gave work for men so it solved the problem of a shortage of food.

A prize was to be given to the railroad Co. that reached Ogden first. The U. P. leased contract to President Young. He subleased it. Many men from Heber were given work. They worked in Echo Canyon one

man and one team received \$10.00 per day. Hay was baled in Heber and hauled to Echo. It was sold from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a ton. That year flour had to be brought into Heber on account of grasshoppers. The U. P. reached Ogden first and received the prize.

In 1873 a social hall was built on the west side of main Street, 60ft. long, 35ft. wide with gallery in east end and with raised stage in west end. It had class rooms below main floor, and was very convenient for theatres churches and dances.

Wasatch Stake was organized on July 15, 1877 by John Taylor and others. Abram Hatch Pres., with Thomas H. Giles and Henry S. Alexander as counselors and Charles Shelton as clerk. The bishop of East Ward was Thomas Rasband, John Muir and Harmon Cummings as counselors. Bishop of West Ward was William Farnham, John Crook and Geo. T. Giles as counselors.

The first Relief Society was organized with Emma Brown as Pres. with Mary Daybell and Sarah Alexander as counselors.

New style threshing machines were brought into the valley as early as 1870. Isaac Baum, J. Lee, and Robert Breadhead were among the owners. This made it possible to have grain threshed as soon as it was harvested; and separated the grain and chaff.

In 1864<sup>74</sup> a few mowing and reaping machines were bought by the Heber people. The reapers were not self binding. A man sat on the machines and pushed the bundles off. Five men were kept busy binding. They were able to cut seven or eight acres a day.

A hay rake was also brought into Heber. All these new devices helped make life more desirable. Lamps, stoves, sewing machines and washers all helped to lighten women's work.

*Carried by William Barnes*  
The mail came twice a week from Provo. It was carried on horse back. It went on to Kansas and Galville. There was no parcel post and very few letters. The Deseret News came once a week. Very little or no mail came through in the winter because of so many slides in the canyon and deep snow.



PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE OLD FORT AT HEBER IN 1860 WHO ARE STILL LIVING.  
April 28, 1932.

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Joseph and Lizzie Giles Moulton.   | Margaret Duke Murdock. |
| William and Maria Carlile Rasband. | J. W. Clyde.           |
| Christie Giles.                    | A. Y. Duke.            |
| Heber Crook.                       | Mary Ann Mc D. Fisher. |
| Jane McD. Mc Naughton.             | William Mc Donald.     |
| Nettie Murdock Mc Mallen.          | Sarah R. J. Lindsay.   |
| John Hicken.                       | Sarah Jane E. Lindsay. |
| Fred W. Giles.                     |                        |

FAMILIES THAT WINTERED IN HEBER IN 1859

|                                       |                   |                  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Rasband                        | James Carlile     | John Jordan      |
| John Crook                            | Charles W. Carrol | William Davidson |
| James Davis                           | John Sessions     | Alex Sessions    |
| Hyrum Oaks                            | Richard Jones     | William Sessions |
| John Lee                              | James Laird       | Elisha Thomas    |
| Jane Clotworthy (widow) R. Broadhead. | George Carlile    |                  |
| Elisha Thomas                         | Elizabeth Carlile |                  |

Jessie Bond raised crops but went back to Provo for the winter.

First child born in Heber Valley-----Evangene S. Davidson

First child born in Heber City-----Sarah Crook.

First couple to be married in Heber--G. C. Thomas and Emiline Sessions.

(They were married by Thomas Rasband) December 25, 1860.

First death in Heber 1859-----Child of Sarah Crook.

First grown person to die in valley was John Carlile who died Sept. 15, 19

First homes built in fort were Elias Cox and John Hamilton.

The first School teacher was John M. Young. School was held in the l  
church.

First Bishop was Joseph S. Murdock, in 1861. He was sent here by Presq.  
Brigham Young. The Counselors were J. W. Witt and Thomas Rasband, with  
John Hamilton as clerk.

First Sunday School Superintendent--Thomas H. Giles.

The Large Central School house was built in 1892.

The Denver and Rio Grand Railroad came to Heber in Sept. 29, 1899.

Heber was organized a town in 1889. Henry M. Aird wa its first president. Thomas H. Giles elected in 1894 to 1896. J. W. Clyde from 1896 to 1898. <sup>E</sup> S. D. Clyde from 1898 to 1900. Robert Duke 1900 to 1902.

Heber then became a city and had regular city organizations. The first mayor was J. W. Clyde from 1902 to 1904. J. A. Rasband 1904 to 1906. During his term water works were installed. J. R. Murdock served from 1906 to 1908. During his term we received electric lights. J. W. Clyde 1908 to 1914. J. E. Moulton- 1914. Because of his death E. D. Clyde was chosen to finish the term. H. R. Hatch 1915-1918. John. A. Fortie 1918-1920. R. J. Duke 1920-1924. J. M. Mc Mallin 1924- to 1928. H. Clay Cummings 1928- 1933. When President Hatch was our representerative to the state Legislature, Utah County decided they needed a little more room for grazing stock. They asked that the line be changed from North fork up to Deer Creek. Summit Co. found there was much ore in the Wasatch Mountains so they asked that their line be changed down to the Provo River Bridge. This made it so all the mines would be on their side. President Hatch objected but to no avail. At the last session he said, "If these grants are made Heber will be like Christ when he was crucified, between two thieves." This speech gained the day and Wasatch lines were not changed.

First goods were sent to Heber by Carter. He owned the business but a man by the name of Miller (Mgr.) run it and sold it.

First Theatres were sponsored by John Crook and Co.

First Choir Leader---John W. Crook.

First shingles made by---Dave Stevenson.

Charles Shelton was the first missionary from Heber in 1865.

First Miller---Charles H. Wilkin.

First Relief Society Officers of Stake---Emma Brown, Mary Daybell, and Sarah Alexander as counselors.

The Railroad first came to Heber in Sept. 29, 1899.

First Relief Society fo Heber---Katie Forman, Margaret Muir, and Annie Murdock.